

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of transferring information from a server system to a client system, said method comprising:

receiving, from said server system, network data that includes a portion having state information;

5 removing said portion from said network data;

appending said state information to at least one address corresponding to a link located in a remaining portion of said network data; and

transmitting said remaining portion of said network data to said client system.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of parsing said remaining portion of said network data for said at least one address prior to said appending step.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving step includes receiving a data stream that includes said network data.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said network data comprises a Web document.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said portion of said network data comprises a Hypertext Protocol (HTTP) header that includes a request to store a cookie.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said state information comprises a cookie name and a value.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said link comprises a hyperlink to a Web page and said at least one address comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of said Web page.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said remaining portion of said network data comprises a Web page.

9. A method of transferring information from a client system to a server system, said method comprising:

receiving, from said client system, a request including an address;

removing a portion from said address having state information;

5 formatting said state information; and

transmitting a remaining portion of said address and said formatted state information
to said server system.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of parsing said address for
said state information prior to said removing step.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said receiving step includes receiving a data
stream that includes said request.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein said request comprises a Hypertext Protocol
(HTTP) request.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein said request comprises a request for a Web
document.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein said state information includes a cookie name
and a value.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein said remaining portion of said address includes
a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of a Web page.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein said formatted state information comprises a
cookie.

17. An apparatus for transferring information from a server system to a client
system, said apparatus being configured to:

receive, from said server system, network data that includes a portion having state
information;

5 remove said portion from said network data;

append said state information to at least one address corresponding to a link located in a remaining portion of said network data; and

transmit said remaining portion of said network data to said client system.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 further configured to parse said remaining portion of said network data for said at least one address prior to appending said state information.

19. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said apparatus is a content switch and is further configured to receive a data stream that includes said network data.

20. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said network data comprises a Web document.

21. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said portion of said network data comprises a Hypertext Protocol (HTTP) header that includes a request to store a cookie.

22. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said state information comprises a cookie name and a value.

23. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said link comprises a hyperlink to a Web page and said at least one address comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of said Web page.

24. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said remaining portion of said network data comprises a Web page.

25. An apparatus for transferring information from a client system to a server system, said apparatus being configured to:

receive, from said client system, a request including an address;

remove a portion from said network address having state information;

format said state information; and

transmit a remaining portion of said address and said formatted state information to said server system.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 further configured to parse said address for said state information prior to removing said portion from said address.

27. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said apparatus is a content switch and is further configured to receive a data stream that includes said request.

28. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said request comprises a Hypertext Protocol (HTTP) request.

29. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said request comprises a request for a Web document.

30. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said state information includes a cookie name and a value.

31. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said remaining portion of said address includes a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of a Web page.

32. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said formatted state information comprises a cookie.

33. An apparatus for transferring information from a server system to a client system, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving, from said server system, network data that includes a portion having state information;

means for removing said portion from said network data;

means for appending said state information to at least one address corresponding to a link located in a remaining portion of said network data; and

means for transmitting said remaining portion of said network data to said client system.

34. An apparatus for transferring information from a client system to a server system, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving, from said client system, a request including an address;

means for removing a portion from said address having state information;

means for formatting said state information; and

means for transmitting a remaining portion of said address and said formatted state information to said server system.

35. A computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions for transferring information from a server system to a client system, said instructions comprising:

instructions for receiving, from said server system, network data that includes a portion having state information;

instructions for removing said portion from said network data;

instructions for appending said state information to at least one address corresponding to a link located in a remaining portion of said network data; and

instructions for transmitting said remaining portion of said network data to said client system.

36. The medium of claim 35 further comprising instructions for parsing said remaining portion of said network data for said at least one address prior to appending said state information.

37. The medium of claim 35 wherein said instructions for receiving includes instructions for receiving a data stream that includes said network data.

38. The medium of claim 35 wherein said network data comprises a Web document.

39. The medium of claim 35 wherein said portion of said network data comprises a Hypertext Protocol (HTTP) header that includes a request to store a cookie.

40. The medium of claim 35 wherein said state information comprises a cookie name and a value.

41. The medium of claim 35 wherein said link comprises a hyperlink to a Web page and said at least one address comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of said Web page.

42. The medium of claim 35 wherein said remaining portion of said network data comprises a Web page.

43. A computer readable medium comprising:
instructions for transferring information from a client system to a server system, said instructions comprising:

instructions for receiving, from said client system, a request including an address;
instructions for removing a portion from said address having state information;
instructions for formatting said state information; and
instructions for transmitting a remaining portion of said address and said formatted state information to said server system.

44. The medium of claim 43 further comprising instructions for parsing said address for said state information prior to removing said portion.

45. The medium of claim 43 wherein said receiving step includes receiving a data stream that includes said request.

46. The medium of claim 43 wherein said request comprises a Hypertext Protocol (HTTP) request.

47. The medium of claim 43 wherein said request comprises a request for a Web document.

48. The medium of claim 43 wherein said state information includes a cookie name and a value.

49. The medium of claim 43 wherein said remaining portion of said address includes a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of a Web page.

50. The medium of claim 43 wherein said formatted state information comprises a cookie.

51. A method of transferring information from a host server system to a client system, said method comprising:

receiving, from said host server system, a Web document that includes a Hypertext Protocol (HTTP) header that includes a request to store a cookie;

parsing said HTTP header of said Web document to locate said cookie;

removing said cookie from said Web document;

appending said cookie to at least one Uniform Resource Locator (URL) within a hyperlink to a Web page located within a further Web page of said Web document; and

transmitting said Web document to said client system.

52. A method of transferring information from a client system to a host server system, said method comprising:

receiving, from said client system, a request for a Web page document, said request including a Uniform Resource Locator (URL);

parsing said URL for cookie information;

15 removing said cookie information from said URL;
formatting a cookie from said cookie information; and
transmitting a remaining portion of said URL and said cookie to said host server
system.

20 53. An apparatus for transferring information from a host server system to a client
system, said apparatus being configured to:

receive, from said post server system, a Web document that includes a Hypertext
Protocol (HTTP) header that includes a request to store a cookie;

parse said HTTP header of said Web document to locate said cookie;

remove said cookie from said Web document;

25 append said cookie to at least one Uniform Resource Locator (URL) within a
hyperlink to a Web page located within a further Web page of said Web document; and
transmit said Web document to said client system.

54. An apparatus for transferring information from a client system to a host server
system, said apparatus being configured to:

30 receive, from said client system, a request for a Web page document, said request
including a Uniform Resource Locator (URL);

parse said URL for cookie information;

remove said cookie information from said URL;

format a cookie from said cookie information; and

35 transmit a remaining portion of said URL and said cookie to said host server system.

55. A computer readable medium comprising:

instructions for transferring information from a host server system to a client system,
comprising:

instructions for receiving, from said host server system, a Web document that includes

40 a Hypertext Protocol (HTTP) header that includes a request to store a cookie;

instructions for parsing said HTTP header of said Web document;

instructions for removing said cookie from said Web document;

instructions for appending said cookie to at least one Uniform Resource Locator
(URL) within a hyperlink to a Web page located within a further Web page of said Web

45 document; and

instructions for transmitting said Web document to said client system.

56. A computer readable medium comprising:

instructions for transferring information from a client system to a host server system,
comprising:

50 instructions for receiving, from said client system, a request for a Web page
document, said request including a Uniform Resource Locator (URL);

instructions for parsing said URL for cookie information;

instructions for removing said cookie information from said URL;

instructions for formatting a cookie from said cookie information; and

55 instructions for transmitting a remaining portion of said URL and said cookie to said
host server system.